



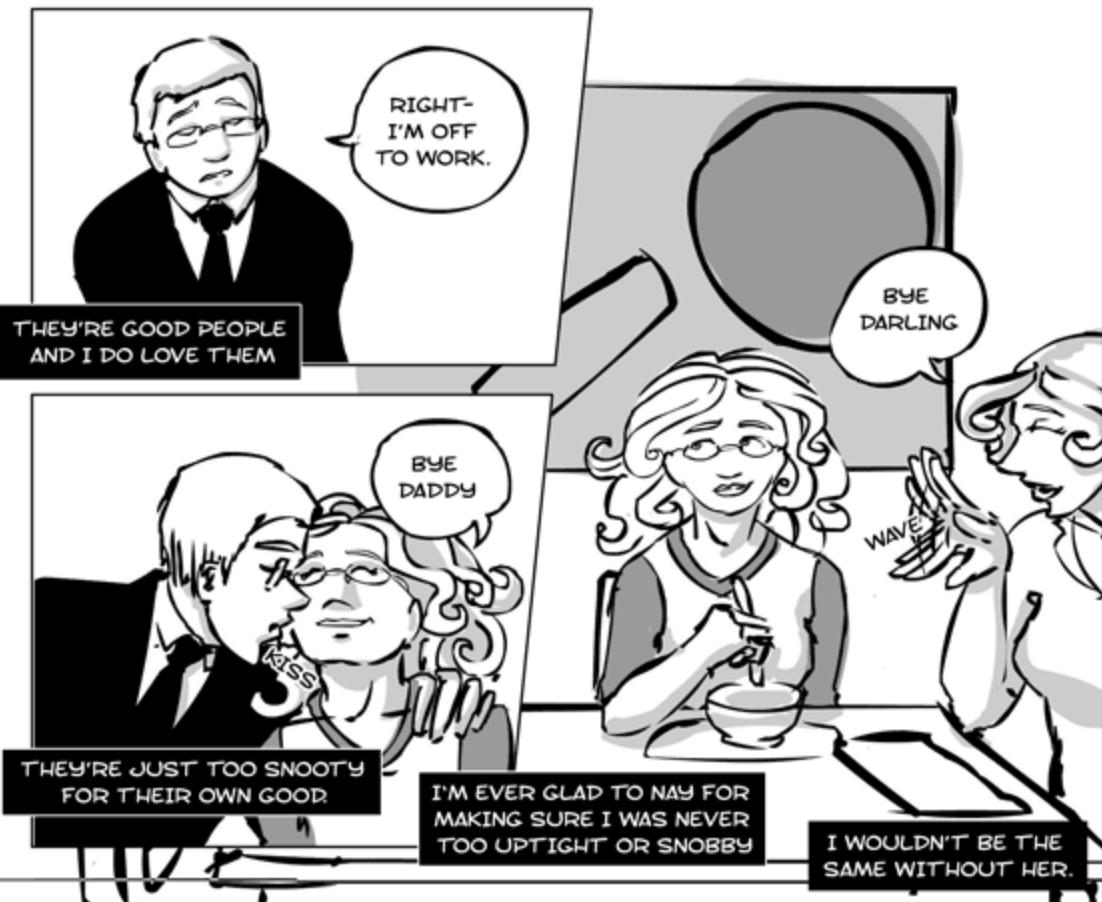
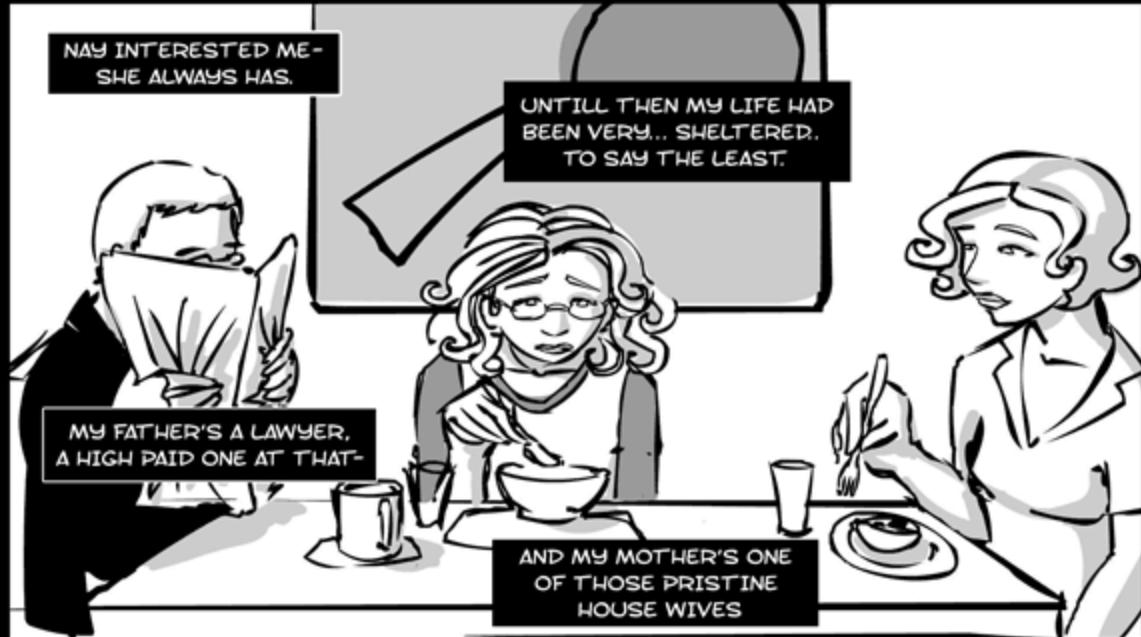


MY NAME IS  
AMBER JURY.

I'M CURRENTLY IN A SLEEPING  
BAG WITH THE *LAST* PERSON  
IN THE WORLD I EVER WANT  
TO SHARE ONE WITH.

THIS IS MY STORY.







THINGS CHANGED BETWEEN  
ME AND NAY WHEN WE MOVED  
UP SCHOOLS.



MY PARENTS ENCOURAGED  
ME TO MAKE THE "RIGHT"  
KIND OF FRIENDS

WE ARE GOING  
TO, LIKE, TOTALLY  
BE THE BEST OF  
FRIENDS!

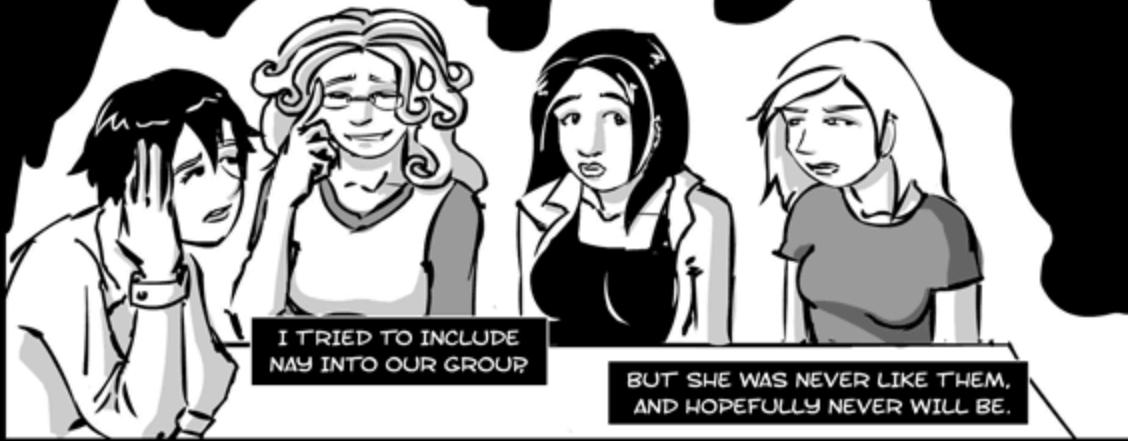
NUH-UH!  
SHE WAS MY  
FRIEND FIRST!

I FOUND MYSELF SURROUNDED  
BY TEEN QUEENS AND HIGH  
ACHIEVERS-

ALL OF THEM OUT TO CLIMB  
THE SOCIAL LADDER, EVEN IF IT  
MEANT TRAMPLING OVER EACH  
OTHER TO GET TO THE TOP



# AWKWARD



BUT WEEKENDS-  
WEEKENDS WERE FOR NAY



IT BECAME A TRADITION  
THAT FRIDAY NIGHT,  
COME WHAT MAY-

I WOULD ARRIVE AT  
HER HOUSE, OVERNIGHT  
BAG IN HAND.

HEY  
AMBER!

HEY  
GUYS

HEY  
AMBER

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED  
NAY'S HOUSE.

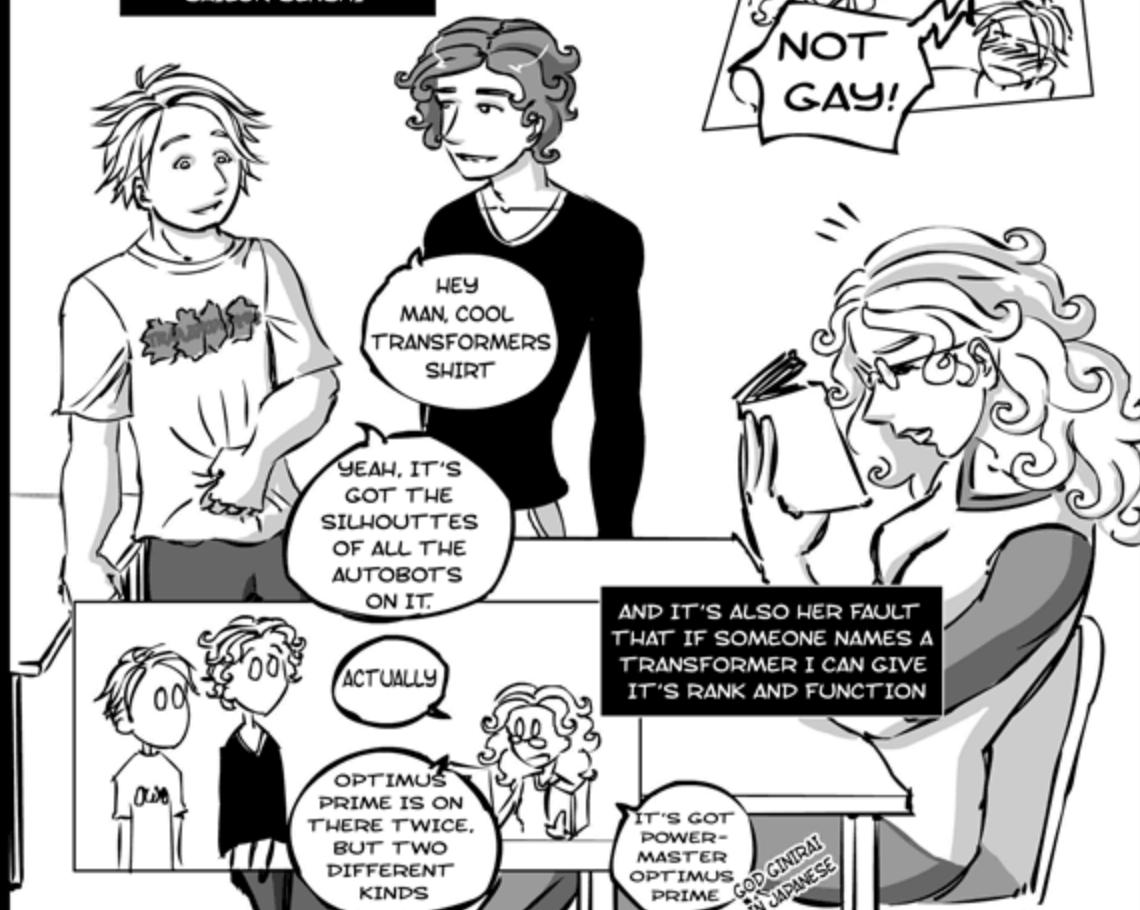
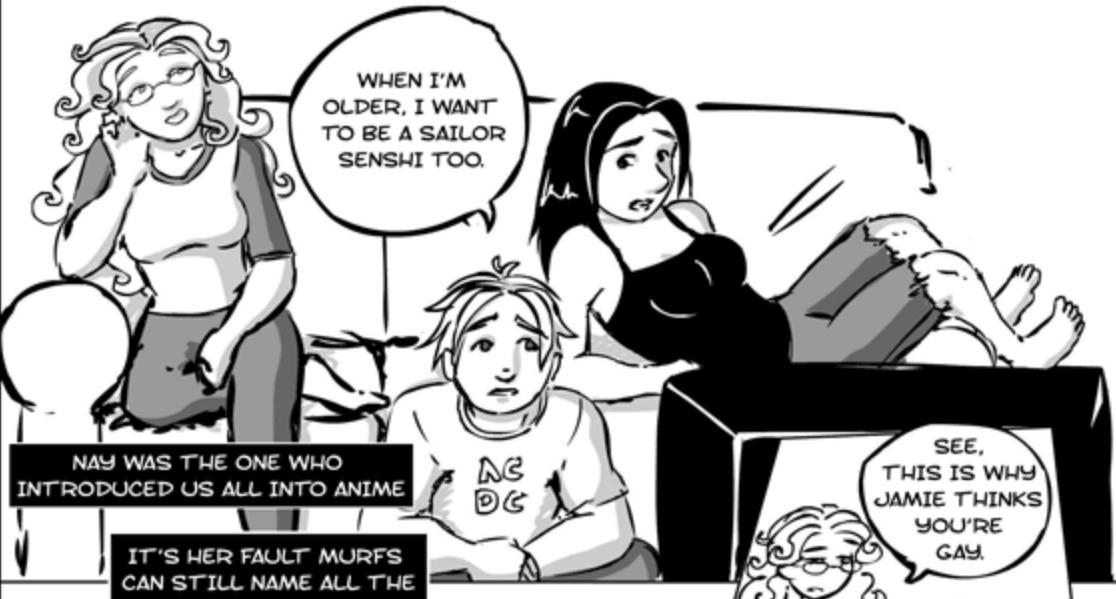
MOVE OVER  
SQUIRT.

HISS

I JUST FEEL LIKE  
MYSELF THERE.

THIS IS  
MY SPOT.

LIKE I DON'T HAVE  
TO BE ANYONE,  
JUST AMBER.

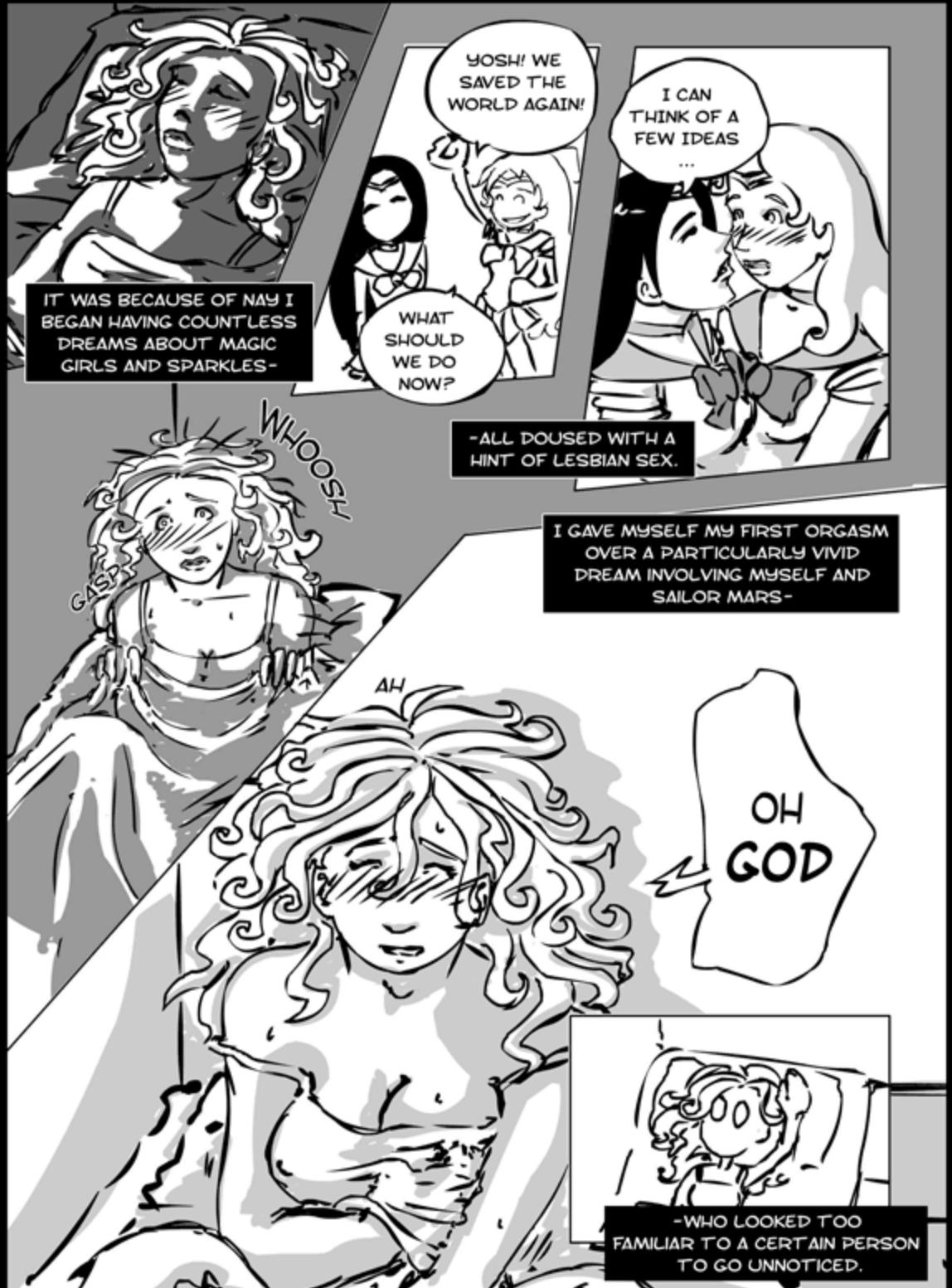


IT WAS WITH NAY I WATCHED EVERY SINGLE EPISODE OF SAILOR MOON (JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBS THANK-YOU-VERY-MUCH)



IT WAS THEN THAT I PICKED UP ON THE, AH, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SAILOR URANUS AND NEPTUNE...





I KEPT MYSELF SANE WITH  
MY SKETCH BOOK.

I HAD ALWAYS BEEN ABLE  
TO DRAW, AND I HAD BEEN  
PRAISED FOR IT.

BUT NOW I FELT A  
COMPULSION TO DRAW -

TO RECORD MY IDEAS, DREAMS  
AND, WELL, FANTASIES ON TO PAPER.

AMBER-  
PHONE!

KNOCK  
KNOCK

IT'S  
NANASE

I'VE GOTTEN VERY ADEPT AT  
DRAWING NAY OVER THE YEARS.

JUST  
A  
SEC!

NOT TO SAY I'M  
OBSESSED WITH HER -

NOT IN THE  
SLIGHTEST!

GRAB

SHE'S MY FRIEND, MY ANCHOR  
AND I COULDN'T RISK DAMAGING  
OUR FRIENDSHIP JUST BECAUSE MY  
SUBCONSCIOUS PREFERENCES HER NAKED.

SO I RESIGNED MYSELF TO A  
FUTURE OF LONELINESS AND  
PENCIL LEAD PORNGRAPHY.

I WAS CONTENT -

WELL, AT LEAST I WAS  
UNTIL HE TURNED UP

TOMAS BLAKE  
WAS HIS NAME.

THERE WAS SOMETHING...  
OFF, ABOUT HIM -

LIKE A GREAT SECRET THAT  
HOVERED IN THE AIR AROUND HIM.

I COULD PROBABLY  
GUESS IT TOO -

GO SIT  
NEXT TO  
AMBER

SHE'S  
SCHOOL  
COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT,  
SO SHE'LL  
HELP YOU  
SETTLE  
IN.

AND MIGHT SORT  
YOU OUT TOO.

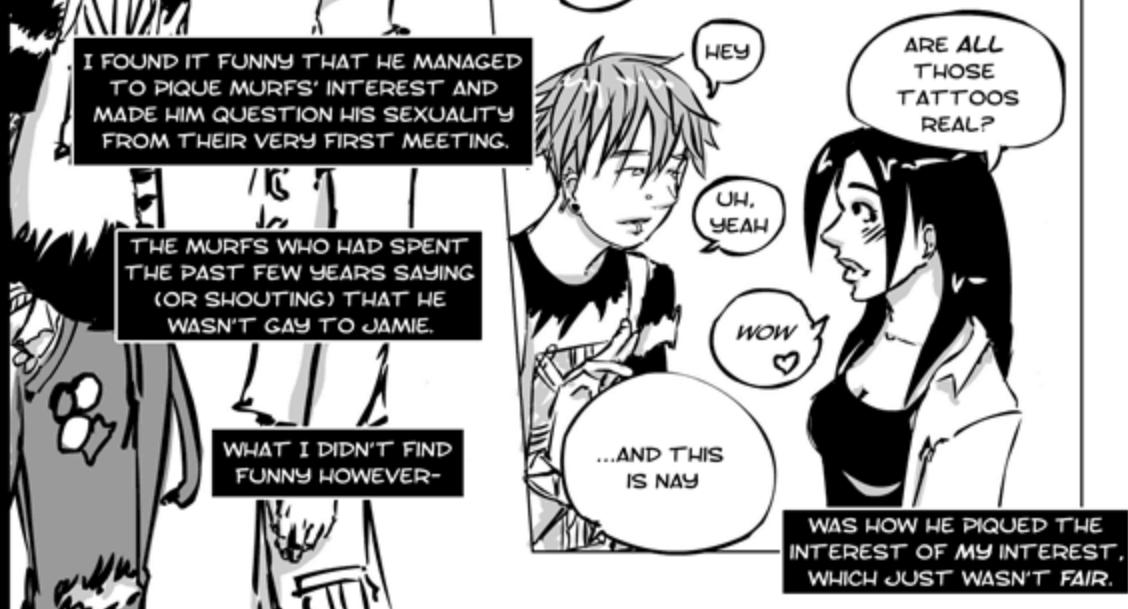
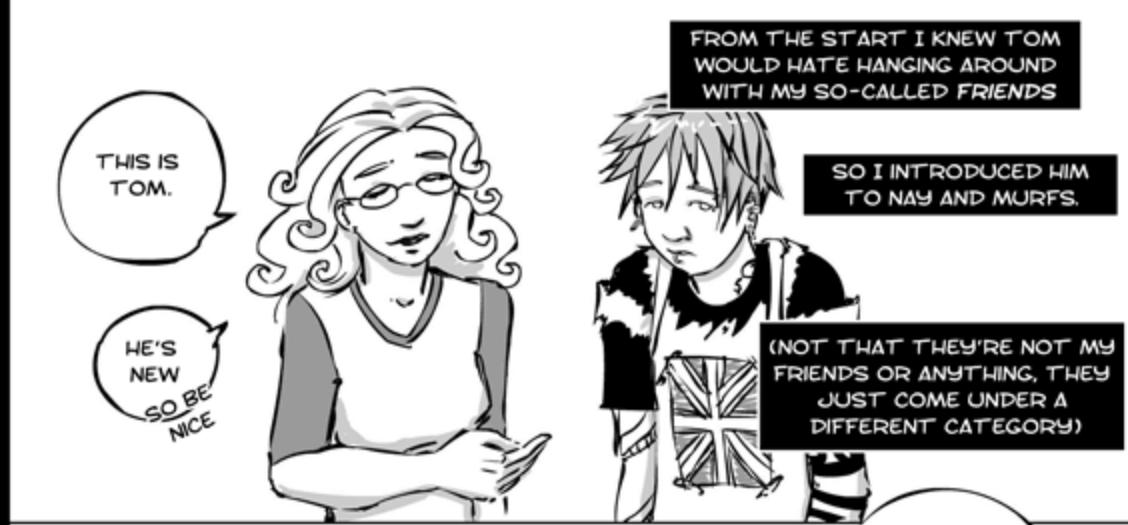
HEY.

BUT THEN AGAIN, AS FAR  
AS SECRETS GO, I'M  
NOT ONE TO TALK.

SO THE SECRET  
REMAINED SAFE.

HI.

FWUMP



IT ALSO WASN'T FAIR THAT  
HE DIDN'T EVEN WANT HER-

AND I HAD TO SIT BACK AND WATCH  
AS SHE VIED FOR HIS ATTENTION

YEAH, SO  
MY A STRING  
BROKE LAST  
NIGHT.  
HURT LIKE  
A BITCH

SO I HAVE  
TO BUY  
A NEW ONE  
TODAY

COOL-  
I NEED TO  
BUY SOME  
MORE PICKS  
AT PROBYN'S

THEY HAD MANY  
THINGS IN COMMON-

PROBABLY A LOT  
MORE THAN NAY AND  
I EVER DID.

HEY ALEX-  
DO YOU NEED  
ANYTHING  
FOR YOUR  
DRUMS?

OH-  
HEY  
AMBER!

TOM ALSO HUNG AROUND  
SCHOOL WITH HER AND MURFS-

SOMETHING MY COWARDICE  
NEVER ALLOWED ME TO DO

HUH  
WHAT?

WAVE

HEY

I THINK MY GROWING SADNESS  
REACHED IT'S PINNACLE WHEN I  
TURNED UP AT NAY'S DOOR ONE  
FRIDAY NIGHT, AS USUAL-

TOM'S  
HERE?OH HEY  
AMBER-  
COME ON  
IN.ME  
AND TOM  
ARE JUST  
WATCHING  
NARUTOAND FOUND  
HIM THERE.I DON'T MIND OTHER PEOPLE  
BEING THERE USUALLY-BUT IT WAS THE FACT  
THAT IT WAS HIM.OH HEY  
AMBER- LONG  
TIME NO  
SEE.AFTER THAT, I DIDN'T GO  
TO NAY'S HOUSE EVERY  
FRIDAY ANYMORE.OH - I  
NORMALLY COME  
OVER NAY'S ON  
FRIDAYS.OH  
REALLY?NEWS  
TO  
ME.

BUT WHEN A DOOR CLOSES A  
WINDOW OPENS RIGHT?

MY WINDOW CAME IN THE  
FORM OF MARK SHEFFIELD.

HE JUST WALKED UP TO ME  
ONE DAY AND ASKED ME OUT.

HEY  
AMBER!

OH...  
MARK.  
HI.

WHAT  
DID YOU  
NEED?

WELL...  
YOU  
SEE...

I, ER,  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
CUTE.

WANNA  
GO OUT  
WITH ME?

ER...

I SAID YES.

I CALLED NAY AND TOLD HER.

SHE WAS SURPRISED

I DIDN'T KNOW HE LIKED YOU.

I DIDN'T KNOW EITHER.

BUT IT WAS WORTH TELLING HER IN THE END-

WELL...

I HOPE YOU GUYS ARE HAPPY TOGETHER

YEAH. ME TOO.

BEACUSE AFTERWARDS WE STARTED TO GO BACK TO HOW WE USED TO BE.

YEAH.

WELL - I, ER.. BETTER GO

WAIT! I MEAN - I - I HAVE A DATE WITH HIM SATURDAY-

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

AND THE NEXT FRIDAY I TURNED UP AT HER HOUSE, OVERNIGHT BAG IN TOW, LIKE NOTHING HAD HAPPENED



TODAY WE'LL  
BE WORKING ON  
*portraits*

SO I WANT  
YOU TO FIND  
A PARTNER  
AND DRAW  
EACH OTHER!  
I WANT TO  
*feel* THE  
CREATIVITY!



HMMMM

I DON'T GET MANY REALLY  
CLOSE FRIENDS (OR REAL ONES), SO  
I WAS HAPPY WHEN I MET CHARLIE  
FOR THE FIRST TIME.



HEY, CAN I  
WORK WITH  
YOU?

SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE QUIET ONE  
SITTING IN THE CORNER OF MY ART CLASS,  
A PLACE WHERE NONE OF MY OTHER SO  
CALLED "FRIENDS" DARED TO ENTER



SHE HAD BEEN POINTED OUT TO  
ME BY TOM, AND SHE WAS APPARENTLY  
ONE OF HIS OLDEST FRIENDS.

LIKE TOM THERE  
WAS SOMETHING "OFF"  
ABOUT HER.

MAYBE IT WAS THE WAY  
SHE HELD HERSELF—

UM,  
OKAY.

OR THE WAY HER CHOKER  
COVERED HER ADAM'S APPNEL

EITHER WAY, IF SHE REALIZED  
THAT I HAD NOTICED SHE DIDN'T  
SAY ANYTHING, AND I DIDN'T  
SAY ANYTHING EITHER.



FROM THEN ON CHARLIE WAS INCLUDED IN OUR SLEEPOVERS.

SHE FITTED IN PERFECTLY-

AS DID HER NARUTO BOX-SET

OBSSESSED MUCH?

SASUKE NOOOOOO OOOOO!

I DON'T MOCK YOUR OBSESSION WITH GAARA-

THERE WERE FOUR OF US NOW-

I'M NOT OBSESSED WITH GAARA

DON'T MESS WITH ME!

IF YOU INCLUDED KELLY, MURFS' OLDER SISTER

\*COUGH\* GAARA PLUSHIE.

\*COUGH\* SMUG

SHE GOES TO UNI SO IT WAS ONLY ON THE ODD OCCASION WE WERE GRACED WITH HER PRESENCE.

YOU WON THIS ROUND...

HALF OF THE SLEEPOVERS  
WERE NOW SPENT DISCUSSING MY  
RELATIONSHIP WITH MARK.

TELL  
MEEEEEEEEE

BY DISCUSS I MEAN THEM  
PESTERING ME ABOUT THE  
LATEST THING WE'D DONE  
TOGETHER.

YEAH,  
TELL  
US

I HAD BEEN ENJOYING MY  
TIME ALONE WITH MARK-

ER, WELL,  
LAST TIME  
HE CAME OVER  
RIGHT...

IN FACT I WAS SURPRISED THAT  
I WASN'T MORE DISAPPOINTED  
BY THE LACK OF BREASTS THAN  
I ACTUALLY WAS

HE CERTAINLY SEEMED  
HAPPY WITH MINE ANYWAY.





SO WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU REALISE YOUR SUPPOSED BOYFRIEND IS MOST PROBABLY DEFINITELY GAY?

I DECIDED TO TRY TO GET HIM TO CONFESS TO ME ON HIS OWN.

MY PARENTS ARE AWAY NEXT WEEKEND...

SO... I WAS GOING TO BUY SOME CONDOMS ...

SO I ASKED HIM TO HAVE SEX WITH ME - HOPING HE WOULD REFUSE AND I COULD ASK WHY.

DON'T YOU WANT TO?

BUT NO, HE HAD TO SAY YES.

INNOCENCE

NO- NO! IT'S FINE! WE CAN! WE CAN!

MORON..

THIS REQUIRED DRASTIC ACTION-

I HAD TO MAKE MARK BE AROUND STEVE MORE SO HE COULD REALISE HIS "FEELINGS"

SO I LAUNCHED THE DOUBLE DATE PLAN.

SO... I HAVEN'T SEEN STEVE LATELY

HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

YOU DON'T REALLY SEE HIM MUCH.

THE HARDEST PART WAS MAKING HIM THINK IT WAS HIS IDEA.

THE PLAN WENT SWIMMINGLY.



I COULD TELL MARK WAS HAVING A MORAL DILEMMA THE MOMENT HE SAW STEVE.

SO I JUST SAT BACK AND OBSERVED, MAKING THE MOST OF MY TIME WITH NAY.



WELL.. IT WAS GOING WELL,  
UNTIL THEY WENT TO THE  
MEN'S ROOM THAT IS.



AND THEN  
IT WAS LIKE  
BANG!

MARK MUST HAVE SAID  
SOMETHING TO STEVE  
OR VISA VERA.

AND THEN  
HE WAS LIKE-

OPEN

ARE  
YOU  
OKAY?

I'M  
FINE.

LET'S  
GO.

DRAG

I SWEAR, MEN ARE SUCH  
DUMB ASSES SOMETIMES.



SO IT WAS TIME FOR  
SHOCK TACTICS.

AND WHAT BETTER TIME TO  
SHOCK HIM THAN THE MOMENT  
HE WAS MOST LIKELY TO BE  
THINKING ABOUT HIS CRUSH?



I STILL HAVE A SKETCH  
SOMEWHERE OF HIS FACE  
WHEN I ASKED HIM.

YOU'RE  
THINKING  
ABOUT STEVE  
AREN'T  
YOU?



IT REALLY WAS  
THAT PRICELESS.

AFTER HE GOT OVER THE  
INITIAL SHOCK HE FINALLY DID  
CONFESS IN THE END.

WE TALKED FOR A WHILE, THEN  
I SENT HIM HOME WITH ADVICE  
ON HOW TO DEAL WITH STEVE.



I NOW HAD TO DEAL WITH  
THE HARD PART- TELLING MY  
FRIENDS WE HAD BROKEN UP

BUT YOU TWO WERE SO PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER!

IT WAS HARDER THAN IT SOUNDED, SEEING AS MOST OF MY FRIENDS THOUGHT WE HAD BEEN DESPERATELY IN LOVE OR SOMETHING EQUALLY ASININE.

YOU AND MARK BROKE UP??

WHOOSH

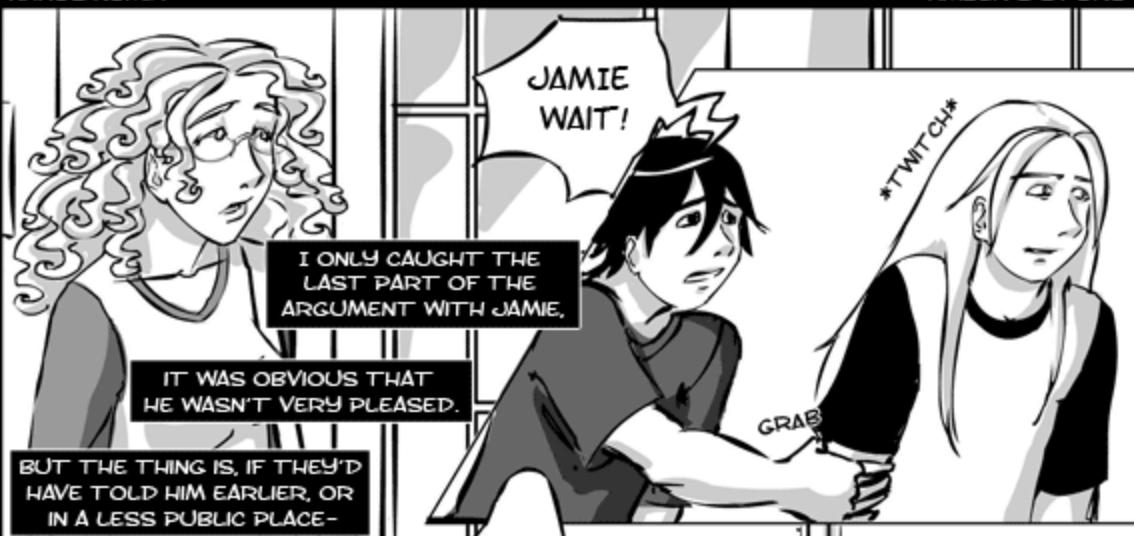
BECAUSE WE BOTH MUTUALLY AGREED THAT WE WEREN'T COMPATIBLE ROMANTICALLY, AND THAT WE WERE BETTER OFF AS GOOD COMPANIONS.

WHY?

SLAM

I MADE IT OUT TO BE MUTUAL BREAK UP WHERE BOTH PARTIES WERE NOW HAPPY.

WHICH WOULD MAKE IT ALL THE MORE AWKWARD WHEN MARK AND STEVE FINALLY DID COME OUT TOGETHER.



IF THERE WAS ONE THING  
THAT I HAD LEARNT FROM THE  
WEEKS I WAS WITH MARK, IT  
WAS TO NEVER MENTION  
HIS BROTHER.

JAMIE KNEW THAT, HE  
HAD TO HAVE KNOWN IT.

THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT  
MADE IT EVEN MORE PAINFUL  
FOR MARK TO HEAR IT.







COME  
ON!FOR SOME REASON I FELT AS  
THOUGH I COULD TRUST CHARLIE,  
SO I TOLD HER THE REAL VERSION  
OF THE EVENTS.SO  
SPILL.FINE, BUT  
THIS IS  
BETWEEN  
US.MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE  
I KNOW WE BOTH HAVE  
HUGE SECRETS, SO I FEEL  
A SENSE OF EMPATHY.THERE HAS  
TO BE MORE  
TO THE STORY  
THAN:"ME AND MARK  
BROKE UP AND BY  
SOME COINCIDENCE  
MARK AND STEVE  
THEN STARTED  
GOING OUT 3  
DAYS LATER."MARK'S BEEN IN LOVE  
WITH STEVE SINCE  
FOREVER. THEY HAD SEX  
DRUNK, AND STEVE  
FORGOT THE NEXT  
MORNING. MARK WENT  
OUT WITH ME TO TRY  
TO FORGET ABOUT STEVE,  
BUT I CONVINCED HIM TO  
GO AFTER STEVE  
INSTEAD.OR MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW  
THAT IF IT CAME DOWN TO IT,  
I HAVE FAR MORE DIRT ON HER  
THAN SHE DOES ON ME....  
RIGHT  
...

SHRUG

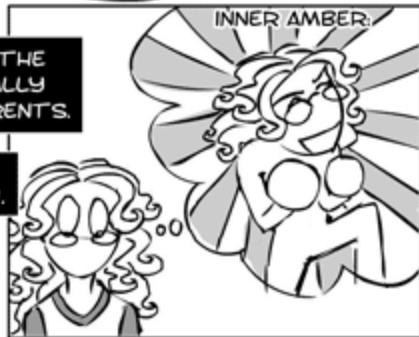
BUT LET'S STICK WITH THE  
"FRIENDSHIP" EXPLANATIONYOU  
GUYS ARE  
SUCH  
NERDS.IT'S PRETTY  
SIMPLE IF YOU  
JUST REMEMBER  
THAT IT'S THE  
AORTIC ARCH THAT  
"ARCHES" OVER  
THE TOP THE  
REST ARE ALL  
COMMON  
SENSE....  
AMBER,  
WE NEED  
TO TALK.BUT YOU KNOW, THE BEST THING THAT  
CAME OUT OF ALL THE CHAOS OF  
MARK AND STEVE, WOULD HAVE TO BE  
MY OTHER "FRIENDS" REACTIONS.



IT SEEMED THAT THE RUMORS HAD FINALLY REACHED THEIR PARENTS.

SO I WAS NO LONGER SOCIALLY DESIRABLE TO BE FRIENDS WITH.

I HAD TOLD MINE ABOUT MARK AND STEVE A WHILE BACK.



THEY WERE SURPRISINGLY ACCEPTING, MY DAD EVEN ENCOURAGED ME TO BE A CARING, POLITICALLY CORRECT CITIZEN AND SUPPORT THEIR DECISION.

I... UNDERSTAND

SAY NO MORE, YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN YOURSELVES

I SHALL GO TO OTHER FRIENDS

PLUS IT MEANT I FINALLY HAD THE PERFECT REASON TO BE WITH THE SET OF FRIENDS THAT I WANTED.

HI GUYS

YOU DON'T WANT THE RUMORS TO TARNISH YOUR REPUTATIONS

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT- MY MUM..

CAN I EAT LUNCH WITH YOU?



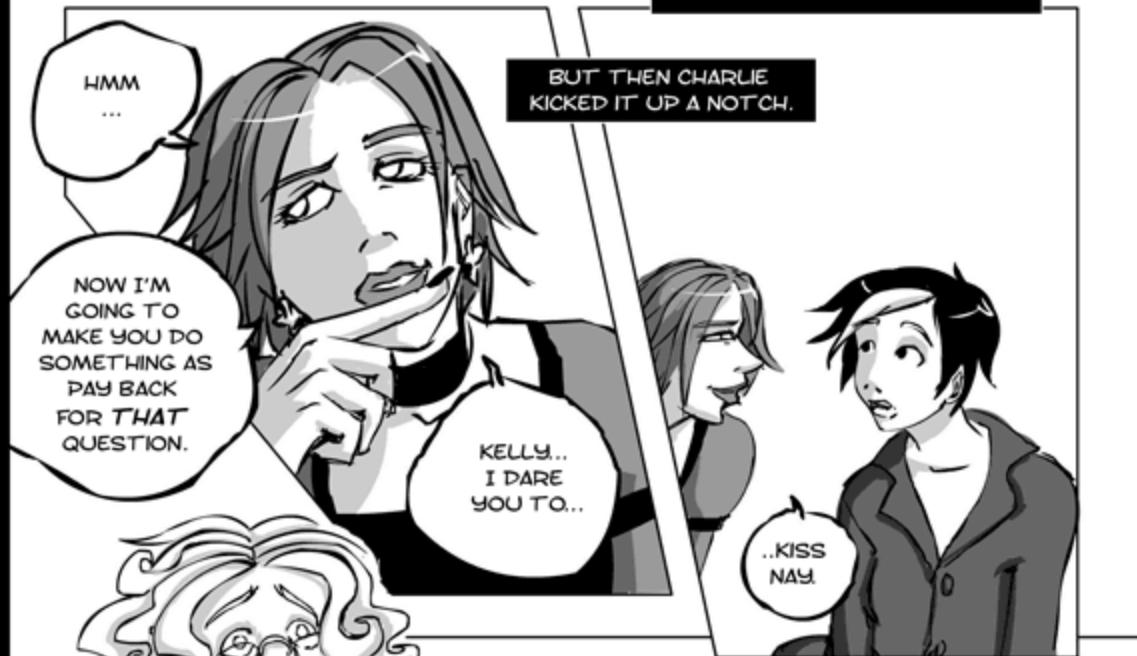
AFTER THAT I SPENT MUCH MORE TIME WITH MY FRIENDS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY NAY.

GIRLY SLEEPOVERS AT HERS WERE NOW MUCH GREATER OCCASIONS, AND NOW OFTEN INCLUDED ALCOHOL AS WELL AS ANIME.





IT ALL STARTED INNOCENTLY  
WITH THE QUESTIONS ON SEX  
AND BOYS





OH GOD.

THAT'S JUST  
...UNFAIR.

I KNEW KELLY JUST WANTED  
TO MAKE ME SQUIRM.

AS FAR AS SHE KNEW I WAS AGAINST  
LESBIANS (DESPITE MY CURRENT  
FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL'S  
ONLY OPENLY GAY COUPLE)

SHE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE  
DREAMS, THE DRAWINGS OR  
THE DESIRES THAT I HAD.

AND IF I HAVE MY WAY THEN  
NO ONE EVER WILL.

BUT I HAD TAKEN TOO LONG  
TO REPLY TO JUST APPEAR  
MERELEY SHOCKED.

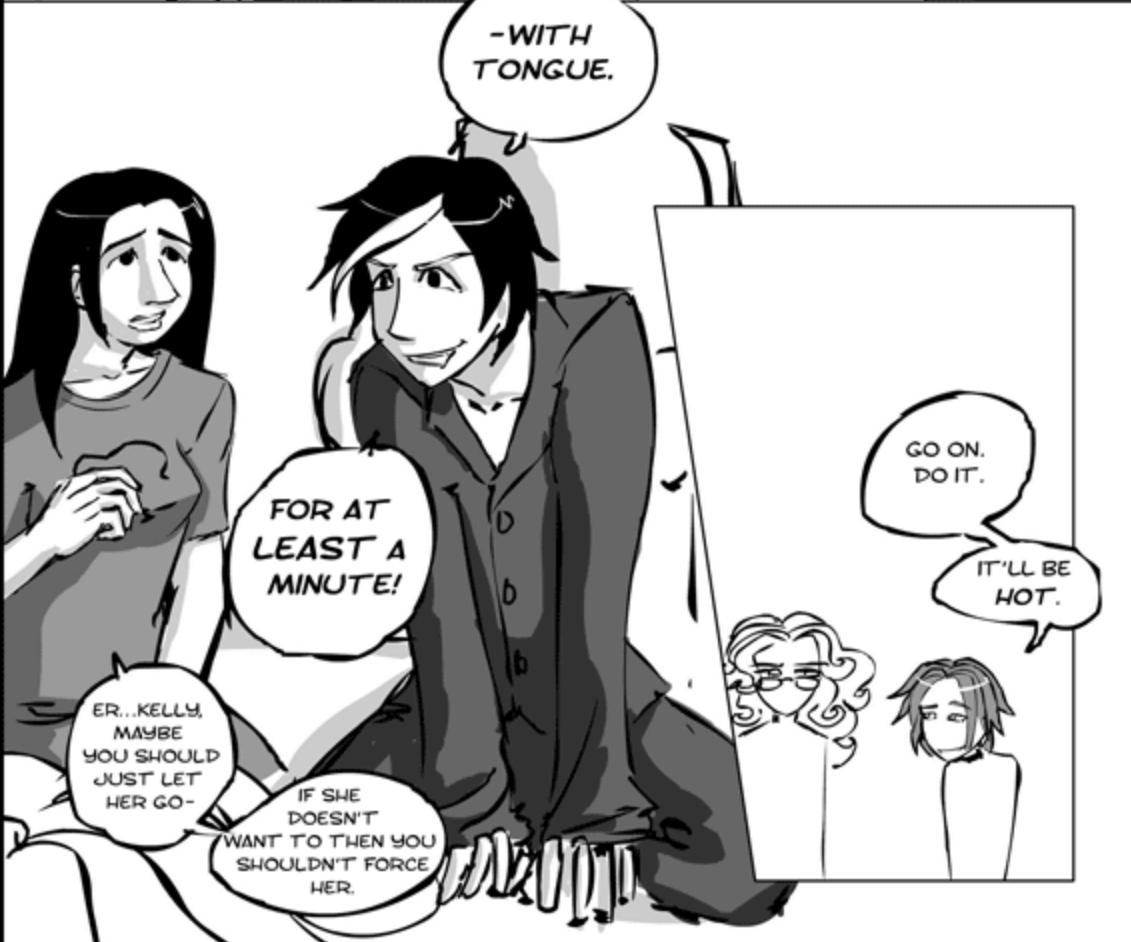
I HAD TO DECIDE QUICKLY-WHAT  
WOULD AMBER ELYSIA JURY, HEAD  
OF STUDENT COUNCIL, A-GRADE STUDENT  
AND NOW APPARENT LESBO-PHOBE  
SAY TO A DARE LIKE THAT?

SIGH

NO.

SO YOU  
FORFEIT?

YES.







AFTER THAT I KIND OF AVOIDED NAY FOR A WHILE.

WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING NAY?!

NICE HAIR MURFS

STOP AVOIDING THE QUESTION.

I KNOW YOU'RE AVOIDING HER- IT'S SO OBVIOUS, AND IT'S NOT FAIR ON HER.

THAT KISS WASN'T EVEN HER IDEA, SO I DON'T SEE WH-

WC  
DC

WAIT-

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT KISS?



SHE SEEMS TO  
THINK THAT YOU'RE A  
HOMOPHOBE.

BECAUSE THAT  
MAKES SO MUCH  
SENSE CONSIDERING  
THAT I'M GOOD  
FRIENDS WITH  
MARK AND STEVE.



I BETTER  
GO FIND  
TOM.





THE CAMPOUT WAS SOMETHING WE'D BEEN DOING FOR YEARS.

IT WAS A TRADITION PASSED DOWN BY KELLY AND HER FRIENDS THAT WHEN IT GOT WARM ENOUGH-

ALMOST THERE GUYS!

WE WOULD ALL GRAB CAMPING GEAR, WALK A MILE INTO THE WOODS FROM NAY'S HOUSE-

START A BONFIRE, AND GET VERY DRUNK.

SO, I SEE CHARLIE ISN'T HERE

NO.

AND WHY MAY THAT BE?

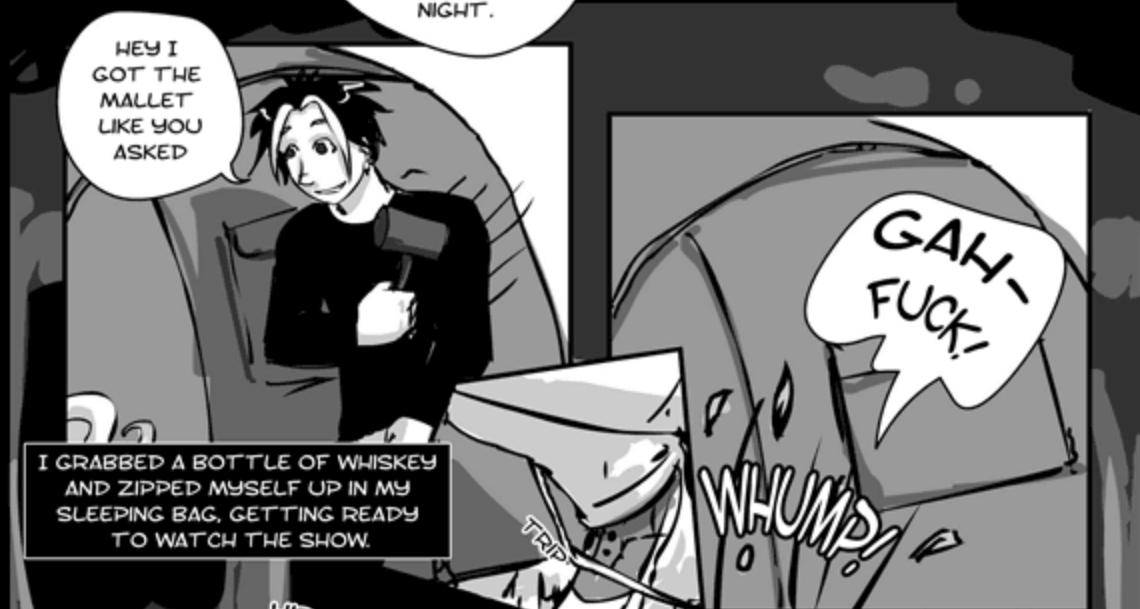
YOU KNOW WHY.

BITCH!

THIS YEAR STEVE, MARK AND TOM WERE ALL COMING TOO.

CHARLIE COULDN'T COME BECAUSE OF HER NEW "LOVE INTEREST".

I SWEAR IT'S ALL DRAMA FOR THESE PEOPLE.



SO I'VE GOTTA ASK-

BUT THE THING IS, WHEN PEOPLE GET DRUNK THEY START TO TALK.

AND ASK QUESTIONS.

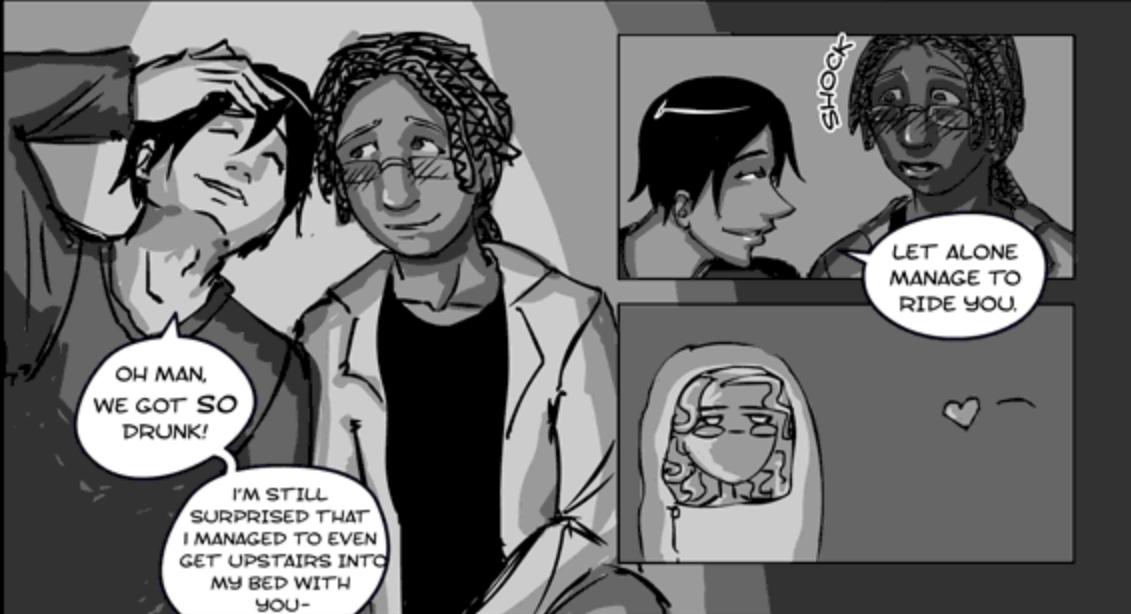
WHICH ONE OF YOU "TAKES" IT?

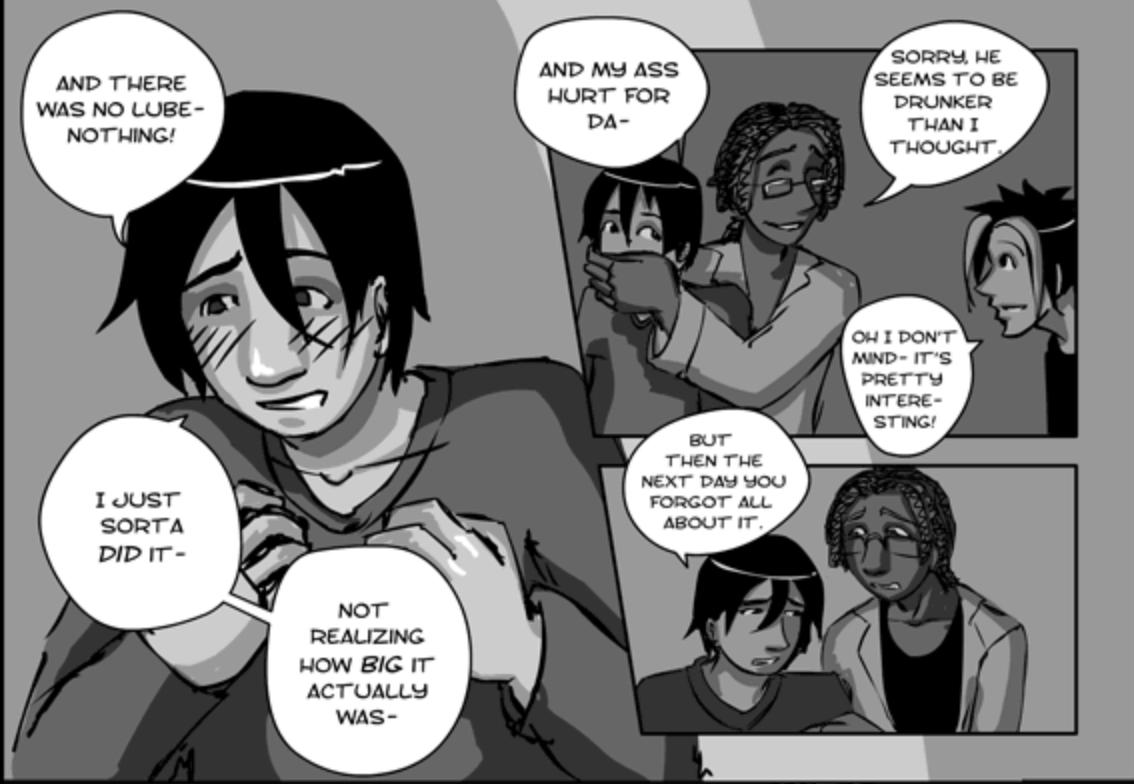
W-WHO SAID WE WERE EVEN HAVING THAT KIND OF SEX- JUST BECAUSE WE'RE GAY DOESN'T-

THEY TAKE TURNS.

AMBER!

WHAT? I ASKED THEM A WHILE BACK.





BUT I'M  
SO MUCH  
HAPPIER  
WITH  
STEVE  
NOW!

I FEEL SO  
APPRECIATED

HEY I'M  
NOT THE ONLY  
ONE WHO LIKED  
SOMEONE ELSE  
WHEN WE WERE  
DATING

WHEN WE  
BROKE UP YOU  
SAID THAT YOU  
ONLY SAID YES  
IN THE FIRST  
PLACE BECAUSE  
I REMINDED  
YOU OF  
SOMEONE  
ELSE.

REALLY?!  
WHO IS  
HE?!

YOU NEVER  
SAID THAT  
YOU LIKED  
SOMEONE!

ER, WELL,  
I..

HOLY  
FUCK!

WHAT A PERFECT TIME FOR MURFS  
TO SET HIMSELF ON FIRE. I REALLY  
HAVE TO THANK HIM FOR THAT

GET  
SOME  
WATER  
QUICK!

FLAIL!

SPLASH!

I'VE  
GOT  
IT!

TOUR!

DRIP

DRIP



MARK ENDED UP TALKING TO MURFS FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT.

MURFS WAS FULL OF QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS AND STEVE'S RELATIONSHIP AND HE WAS STILL TRYING TO RECOVER HIS PRIDE FROM THE WHOLE "SET ON FIRE" THING.

ARE YOU OKAY?

I MEAN I DIDN'T ASK IF YOU WERE HURT OR BURNT OR ANYTHING...

WOW- REALLY?

UM.. ALEX?

I'M FINE.

O-OKAY.

FUME

LOL. PWND.

THAT'S THE CUTEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN.

?

FLASH

TAKE A PICTURE.

WE FOUND THEM LATER CURLED UP TOGETHER FAST ASLEEP

MARK AND MURFS HAVE THE  
RIGHT IDEA-

STRETCH

ARE YOU  
GUYS OKAY  
SHARING A  
TENT?

YEAH

-I'M GOING  
TO SLEEP

BUT I THINK WE'LL  
STAY UP A WHILE  
LONGER

OKAY THEN.  
AMBER-  
ARE YOU  
COMING?

\*AMBER VISION\*

Y-YEAH.

SO THAT'S HOW I FOUND MY  
SELF SHARING A TENT WITH NAY.

HEY...  
AMBER?



NAY'S HAIR SMELT LIKE SMOKE AND HER BREATH LIKE BEER.

I KNOW THAT I PROBABLY SMELT LIKE DIRT AND WHISKEY, SO I DIDN'T COMPLAIN.

SHE LENT IN TO KISS ME AND I WAS SO SURPRISED I JOLTED BACK.



THEY WOULD BE CRAZY NOT TO.

...JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.  
I'M JUST DRUNK.

I HOPE THE PERSON THAT MARK SAID YOU LIKED LIKES YOU BACK.

WAIT- WHY DID YOU JUST-



MY NAME IS AMBER JURY.

